

REMARKS

In the October 8, 2003 office action, the Examiner:

1. Objected to the drawings for failure to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims;
2. Rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because it is unclear where there is support in the specification for the resonator end surfaces and the step-like structure having a distance;
3. Rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention because "an active layer" is recited in both line 3 and line 7 of claim 1;
4. Rejected claims 1-18 as indefinite because it is unclear how the resonator end surfaces and the step-like structure can have a distance, when they are perpendicular to each other; and
5. Rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Furuya (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,500).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants have amended Figure 4A to show distances d_1 and d_2 , which indicate a distance between the resonator end surfaces and the groove G. The specification has also been amended to refer to distances d_1 and d_2 and to compare it with distance W. As such, the drawings and the specification now properly combine to further clarify the claimed feature: "a distance between said resonator end surfaces of said light guide and said step-like structure is greater than a distance between said portion of said light guide not including said resonator end surfaces and said step-like structure."

No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly describes this feature together with the affect of the feature on page 23, particularly at lines 19-25.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the recitation of the term "Active Layer."

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings, the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph, and both rejections of claims 1-18 under U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-18 as anticipated by Furuya. Furuya does not however disclose a "light guide [] provided at an upper step side of said step-like structure" as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Indeed, Furuya does not disclose a "step-like structure, but rather a mesa-shaped slope as shown at 22 of Figure 9B.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2-6-04

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